

Application No. 10/706,606

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A wall system for a structure, the system comprising:

a structural frame presenting an exterior side and an interior side; and

first and second envelope layers on the exterior side of the structural frame, the first and second envelope layers being spaced apart by a plurality of furring strips, each furring strip of the plurality of furring strips including at least one layer comprising a generally planar first ply and a second ply, the first and second plies cooperating to define a multiplicity of passages extending generally transversely to a longitudinal axis of the furring strip, the plurality of furring strips arranged so as to define a plurality of enclosed cavities between the first and second envelope layers, each cavity being fluidly coupled to at least one adjacent cavity through the passages in one of the plurality of furring strips, at least one of the cavities being fluidly coupled with the outdoor atmosphere through the passages in one of the plurality of furring strips.

2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Original) The wall system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second envelope layers comprises sheathing.

4. (Original) The wall system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second envelope layers comprises finish siding.

5. (Original) The wall system of claim 1, wherein the second ply of each furring strip of the plurality of furring strips is generally convoluted.

6. (Original) The wall system of claim 5, wherein each furring strip of the plurality of furring strips has at least a pair of first plies.

7. (Original) The wall system of claim 6, wherein the second ply of each furring strip of the plurality of furring strips includes a multiplicity of cross-plices extending between the first plies.

8. (Original) The wall system of claim 5, wherein each furring strip of the plurality of furring strips has a plurality of layers.

9. (Original) The wall system of claim 8, wherein adjacent layers of the plurality of layers are hingably connected at a hingeline extending generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the furring strip.

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10. (Original) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the hingeline of the furring strip is defined by a slice extending through the second ply and one of the first plies of the furring strip.

11. (Original) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the furring strip has first and second hingelines, the first hingeline defined by a first slice extending through one of the first plies and the second ply, and the second hingeline defined by a second slice extending through the other of the first plies and the second ply.

12. (Original) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the hingeline of the furring strip is defined by alternate severed and intact portions, the severed portions comprising substantially severed first and second plies, the intact portions comprising substantially intact first and second plies.

13. (Original) The wall system of claim 8, wherein the layers of the furring strip are stacked and fastened together.

14. (Original) The wall system of claim 13, wherein the furring strip further comprises means for fastening the layers together.

15. (Original) The wall system of claim 13, wherein the layers of the furring strip are fastened together by stitching.

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16. (Original) The wall system of claim 13, wherein the layers of the furring strip are fastened together by fasteners selected from the group consisting of staples, glue, hot air welding, stitching, ultrasonic welding, infrared bonding, and any combination thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a ventilated wall system for a structure, the method comprising the steps of:

operably disposing a first envelope layer on a structural frame defining the structure;

forming a plurality of elongate furring strips, each furring strip having a pair of opposing sides and comprising at least one layer of a material having first and second plies defining a multiplicity of air passages therethrough, the air passages extending generally transversely to the sides of the furring strip;

affixing the plurality of furring strips on the first envelope layer so that the furring strips and the first envelope layer define a plurality of recesses; and

enclosing the recesses with a second envelope layer disposed over the plurality of furring strips, each enclosed recess being fluidly coupled to at least one adjacent recess through the air passages of at least one of the plurality of furring strips, at least one of the plurality of furring strips being disposed so that the air passages connect at least one of the enclosed recesses with the outdoor atmosphere.

18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Currently Amended) A wall system for a structure, the system comprising:

a structural frame presenting an exterior side and an interior side; and

first and second envelope layers on the exterior side of the structural frame, the first and second envelope layers being spaced apart by a plurality of elongate furring strips, each furring strip having a pair of opposing sides, the furring strips spaced apart so as to define a plurality of separate cavities between the first and second envelope layers, each furring strip ~~having means~~ including a multiplicity of air passages extending between the opposing sides of the furring strip for fluidly coupling cavities adjacent each of the opposing sides of the furring strip, at least one of the cavities being fluidly coupled with the outdoor atmosphere through the air passages in one of the plurality of furring strips.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The wall system of claim 20, wherein the air passages extend generally transversely to a longitudinal axis of the furring strip.

23. (Original) The wall system of claim 20, wherein each furring strip includes at least one layer comprising a generally planar first ply and a second ply, the first and second plies cooperating to define the multiplicity of air passages.

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24. (Original) The wall system of claim 23, wherein the second ply is generally convoluted.
25. (Original) The wall system of claim 24, wherein the furring strip has at least a pair of first plies.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Original) The wall system of claim 24, wherein the furring strip has a plurality of layers.
27. (Original) The wall system of claim 26, wherein adjacent layers of the plurality of layers are hingably connected at a hingeline extending generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the furring strip.
28. (Original) The wall system of claim 27, wherein the hingeline of the furring strip is defined by a slice extending through the second ply and one of the first plies of the furring strip.
29. (Original) The wall system of claim 27, wherein the furring strip has first and second hingelines, the first hingeline defined by a first slice extending through one of the first plies and the second ply, and the second hingeline defined by a second slice extending through the other of the first plies and the second ply.

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30. (Original) The wall system of claim 27, wherein the hingeline of the furring strip is defined by alternate severed and intact portions, the severed portions comprising substantially severed first and second plies, the intact portions comprising substantially intact first and second plies.

31. (Original) The wall system of claim 26, wherein the layers of the furring strip are stacked and fastened together.

32. (Original) The wall system of claim 31, wherein the furring strip further comprises means for fastening the layers together.

33. (Original) The wall system of claim 31, wherein the layers of the furring strip are fastened together by stitching.

34. (Original) The wall system of claim 31, wherein the layers of the furring strip are fastened together by fasteners selected from the group consisting of staples, glue, hot air welding, stitching, ultrasonic welding, infrared bonding, and any combination thereof.

35. (Original) A method of ventilating an interstitial space in a wall of a structure comprising the steps of:

forming at least one elongate furring strip, the furring strip having a pair of opposing sides and comprising at least one layer of a material having first and

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second plies defining a multiplicity of air passages therethrough, the air passages extending generally transversely to the sides of the furring strip; and disposing the furring strip in the interstitial space of the wall so that the air passages fluidly couple the interstitial space with the outdoor atmosphere.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of forming the furring strip includes forming the material with at least a pair of first plies.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of forming the furring strip includes ~~includes~~ forming the material with the second ply including a multiplicity of cross-plies extending between the first plies.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of forming the furring strip includes forming the material with a plurality of layers.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of forming the furring strip includes stacking and fastening together the layers.